

DOCKET NO.: MSFT-1797/303687.1
Application No.: 10/610,690
Office Action Dated: April 9, 2007

PATENT

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Fig(s) 1,2,3,4. The sheet(s), which includes Fig(s) 1,2,3,4, replaces the original sheet(s) including Fig(s) 1,2,3,4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview held June 8, 2007 between the Examiner and the undersigned representative.

Overview

Drawings

The Drawings are objected to as failing to include the following reference in Figure 2, "16". Figure 2 has been amended. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to the Drawings.

Claims

Claims 1-15 and 17-20 are pending. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 and 17-20 based upon informalities. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10 based upon 35 U.S.C. § 112, antecedent basis. The Examiner has rejected claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by reference Gray et al. ("Gray"). Claims 1-10 and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gray in view of USP No. 6,324,647 to Bowman-Amuah ("Bowman-Amuah").

Remarks

Informalities

The Applicants have amended claims 1, 17 and 20, without disclaimer or prejudice, to remove the informalities cited by the Examiner. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Antecedent Basis

The Applicants have amended claim 1, without disclaimer or prejudice, to “a deterministic data generation module”, replacing “the” with “a”. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103

The Applicants undersigned representative conducted an interview with the Examiner to discuss the Gray reference and the functionality of a seed. The Applicants discussed the seed value and the effect of the value on generating specific repeatable, synthetic data. The Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, 17, and 20 to include, “wherein the seed is defined by a user input.” No new matter has been introduced, as support for the amendment may be found throughout the Specification, including paragraphs [0029] (“In operation, a user (not shown) may interact with a computing application running on a client computing devices to generate repeatable synthetic data.”), [0041-0043], and [0054].

During the telephonic interview, the Applicants’ undersigned representative asserted to the Examiner the failure of Gray and/or Bowman-Amuah to teach the seed of the present Application. The Applicants assert that Gray at least fails to teach the modification of the seed value to, at least, recreate portions of the data or to start the data generation at various points to, amongst other aspects, satisfy various testing requirements. Gray and/or Bowman-Amuah fail to teach at least this aspect, wherein the seed value is modified based upon an external requirement. Claims 1, 11, 17, and 20 have been amended to include an input for the seed value.

The Applicants respectfully assert that the amended overcomes the § 102 rejections based upon Gray and the § 103 based upon Gray in view of Bowman-Amuah. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections to claims 1, 11, 17, and 20, as well as their respective dependant claims.

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CONCLUSION

By the amendments and remarks provided herein, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Non-Final Office Action mailed April 9, 2007 has been traversed and that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any concerns regarding the response provided herein, or wishes to discuss the response further, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 6, 2007

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